

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 03960 022048Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CU-02 SAB-02  
MCT-01 DHA-02 SY-05 /076 W  
-----030351Z 042869 /17

R 021855Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2169  
PANCANAL  
USCINCSO

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, PN  
SUBJECT: STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1. AT ABOUT 10:30 AM JUNE 1 A CROWD OF ABOUT 100  
UNIVERSITY STUDENTS GATHERED IN FRONT OF THE CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE BUILDING IN PANAMA CITY. THE DEMONSTRATORS CARRIED  
SIGN DENOUNCING THE BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS PARTICIPATING  
IN THE RECENTLY-CONCLUDED ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF BUSINESS  
EXECUTIVES (CADE-77). AFTER THROWING ROCKS AT THE BUILDING  
AND DECORATING THE EXTERIOR WITH ANTI-BUSINESS GRAFFITI,

THE STUDENTS DISPERSED ABOUT 11:15 WITHOUT FURTHER INCIDENT.

2. LEAFLETS WERE DISTRIBUTED BY THE DEMONSTRATORS REJECTING  
THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE AT CADE-77 FOR ACTIONS BY THE GOP  
TO SPUR RECOVERY IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE  
OLIGARCHY TO REGAIN CONTROL OF ECONOMIC POLICYMAKING  
IN PANAMA. SPEAKERS ADDRESSING THE DEMONSTRATORS CHARGED  
THAT REACTIONARY ELEMENTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING  
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PLANNING MINISTER BARLETTA, HOUSING MINISTER ALTAMMIRANO DUQUE,  
MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY MANFREDO, AND FORMER COLON FREE  
ZONE DIRECTOR ROBERTO PUELLO, WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE  
PACKAGE OF ECONOMIC MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN JANUARY 1977 "THAT  
FAVORS THE OLIGARCHY". THE DOMONSTRATION WAS PROVOKED,  
ACCORDING TO PARTICIPANTS, BY THE APPEARANCE, IN THE MAY 30 "LA  
ESTRELLA", OF A CHAMBER SUGGESTION THAT THE JUNE 3 COUNCIL OF

STATE MEETING IN DAVID WOULD BE AN APPROPRIATE FORUM FOR TORRIJOS TO RESPOND TO THE CADE-77 RECOMMENDATIONS.

3. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMUNIQUE PROTESTING THE INCIDENT WAS FRONTPAGED IN JUNE 2 " LA ESTRELLA". CHARACTERIZING THE PHYSICAL ATTACK ON THE CHAMBER BUILDING AS ANOTHER IN A SERIES OF ATTACKS AGAINST PRIVATE SECTOR BY "CLEARLY IDENTIFIED IDEOLOGICAL GROUPS WHO PROMOTE HATRED AND THE CLASS STRUGGLE AS A MEANS OF ACHIEVING THEIR OWN ENDS" IT DEPLORES SUCH ACTS AT A TIME WHEN THE GOP NEEDS NATIONAL UNITY TO SOLVE PANAMA'S PROBLEMS.

4. COMMENT: INDICATIONS ARE THAT THE DEMONSTRATION WAS ORGANIZED BY FEP (FEDERATION OF PANAMANIAN STUDENTS) AND FRU (UNIVERSITY REFORM FRONT) ACTIVISTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF PANAMA. FEP SECRETARY GENERAL ROBERTO GOMEZ REPORTEDLY ADDRESSED THE CROWD. NATIONAL GUARD UNITS OBSERVED THE INCIDENT, BUT MADE NO EFFORTS TO INTERVENE. GOP TOLERANCE OF THE ACTION FURTHER REINFORCES THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY'S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THIS GOVERNMENT.  
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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770197-0970  
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**Message ID:** 0f094186-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
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**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2304510  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**TAGS:** PINT, PN  
**To:** STATE PANCANAL  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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